The Names Project/ Atlanta:
A National AIDS Memorial

1132 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30309-3624
(404) 872-0600

May 20, 1988

The Quilt is Here!
Join us May 28, 29, 30
Georgia World Congress Center

Dear Friend,

Next weekend, Atlanta will host the Southeastern display of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at the Gorgia World Congress Center. You are invited to participate in this historic and meaningful event. We welcome you as a financial contributor, a volunteer a participant and a spectator.

Three full days of related events are included in the enclosed schedule. The 2,000-panel Quilt is the centerpiece of next weekend's activities. Be sure to join us Sunday morning at 9:00 for the unfolding ceremony. During this powerful four-hour ceremony, the names of everyone honored in the quilt will be read aloud as volunteers lower its 60-plus sections into place in Exhibit Hall "A."

Admission to all events is free of charge, except for the performance of Rebecca Ranson's new play, Higher Ground ($15), and Theater Macon's performance of Ranson's earlier AIDS play, Warren ($10). Tickets may be reserved on VISA or MasterCard by calling (404) 827-9678. All proceeds will benefit Georgia AIDS service organizations.

Leading off the weekend's memorial observances on Friday, May 27, will be a 24-hour AIDS vigil at Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 800 N. Highland Avenue. Several sections of the Quilt will be on display. A service of remembrance will open the vigil at 8 p.m. Friday, with a closing service on Saturday at 7 p.m. For details, call MCC at 872-2246.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the weekend's activites. Training sessions will be held on Thursday and Friday evenings, May 26 and 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. Two sessions will be held on Saturday, from 10 a.m. until noon, and from 1 p.m. until 3. To volunteer, you must complete at least one of these two-hour sessions. They will be held at Georgia Mental Health Institute, 1256 Briarcliff Road, Room 304-S.

Finally, your financial support is critically needed. All contributions will be divided among Georgia AIDS organizations which provide direct services to people with AIDS and their loved ones.

Costs of the local exhibition of The NAMES Project Quilt have been covered by contributions of corporate sponsors, generous individuals and special fund raising events. Your contribution in the enclosed envelope --- or your check given at the World Congress Center --- will directly benefit Georgians with AIDS and their loved ones.

Please read the enclosed materials carefully, and bring your friends with you to be a part of the many important observances and activities of The NAMES Project Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Ken

Ken Kimsey, staff
The NAMES Project/Atlanta

P.S. - An envelope is enclosed for your contribution. Please make your check payable to "The NAMES Project." (Of course, all donations are tax-deductible.)

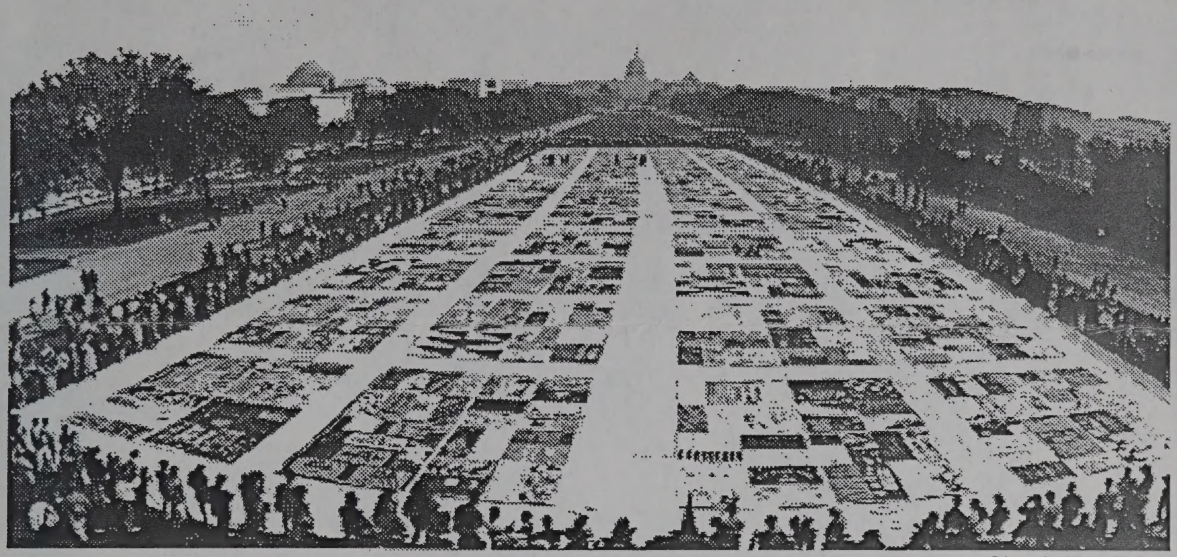

Photo by Marc Geller

A Monumental Memorial Day

Many of us have been touched by the devastating toll of the AIDS epidemic. Now a unique project begun in San Francisco--the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt--has become national in scope, offering those who have lost a friend or loved one the opportunity to become actively involved in a tribute and memorial to those who have died.

Displayed for the first time in Washington, D.C., in October 1987, the quilt is composed of 1,920 individual 3-by-6-foot panels, each capturing the unique personality of one of the tens of thousands of Americans who have already lost their lives in the AIDS epidemic. The quilt will be on display in Exhibition Hall "A" of the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday, May 29, and Monday, May 30. This Atlanta display is the only southeastern stop in the quilt's twenty-city national tour.

The purpose of the Names Project is threefold: to illustrate the enormity of the AIDS epidemic by showing the humanity behind the statistics; to provide a positive and creative means of expression to those who have lost loved ones to AIDS; and to raise vital funds and encourage support of direct services to people living with AIDS.

The idea for the quilt originated with Cleve Jones, a San Franciscan who has lost many friends to the disease. Jones in now executive director of The Names Project.

"For many Americans, the AIDS epidemic has become the tragedy of our generation, profoundly affecting every aspect of our lives," Jones said. "As a nation we have struggled not only against a disease, but also against the equally destructive enemies of ignorance, hysteria, and bigotry.

"At times it seemed we lacked the national will to conquer AIDS, and many of us despaired. This quilt is a gift from the hands and hearts of thousands of Americans who have not despaired. It stands as a statement of hope and remembrance, a symbol of national unity and a promise of love."

For additional information about activities surrounding the Atlanta appearance of the quilt, call or write The Names Project / Atlanta, 1132 W. Peachtree St. N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, or call (404) 872-0600.

AIDS
INTERFAITH SERVICE

Coordinated by the Pastoral Care Department of AID Atlanta

Georgia World Congress Center

Sunday, May 29, 1988

3:00pm - 4:30pm

The Names Project/Atlanta

Participants

The Reverend Pat Merchant..... St Luke's Episcopal Church
The Reverend Richard Schaper....Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Father Alan Dillman.....Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
The Reverend Joe Chancey .....Unitarian Universalist
Rabbi Phil Kranz .....The Temple
Congregation of Bet Haverim Sinai
The Reverend Joan Pritcher..... Northside Baptist Church
The Reverend Tim McDonald..... SCLC
The Reverend McKinley Young.....Big Bethel AME Church
The Reverend Kennedy Shultz .....Church of Religious Science
The Reverend Church Larson..... MCC Atlanta
The Reverend Mary Moore.....MCC Southeast Region
The Reverend Kathryn Cartledge.....Director of Pastoral Services, AID Atlanta

Reported cases of AIDS by district, state of Georgia

July 1, 1981 through January 31, 1988
Total cases: 1159
Source:
Georgia Department of Human Resources
Office of Epidemiology